

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION  
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Membership Balance Plan

1. **Name.** Advisory Committee for Environmental Research and Education (the Committee), #9487
2. **Authority.** This Committee is established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., App. and the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §1861 et. seq.
3. **Mission/Function.** The Committee will provide advice and recommendations to the National Science Foundation concerning support for the agency's environmental research and education portfolio. The Committee will:
  - Advise on the impact of research and education support and policies on the scientific community.
  - Provide input into developing long-range plans.
  - Advise on program structure, balance, and other aspects of program performance.
  - Provide an important locus of contact with the scientific community encompassed by the various disciplines involved in the Foundation's environmental research and education portfolio.
4. **Points of View.** The Committee consists of members who are appointed by the Head of the Office of Integrative Activities (OIA). The Committee will consist of approximately 24 members. There will be a regular rotation of members. Primary considerations are:

Members should have recognized pertinent knowledge, expertise, or demonstrated ability. Within reasonable limits, members' field of specialty should be complementary within the group.

Federal employee members will be designated as Regular Government Employees (RGEs). Individuals outside the federal government will be designated Special Government Employees (SGEs). The members will provide the Committee with their own best independent judgment based on their individual expertise.

5. **Other Balance Factors.** To the extent practicable, other factors considered are:
  - Qualified individuals reflecting small, medium, and large organizations, as well as public and private organizations.
  - Qualified individuals reflecting underrepresented groups, such as ethnic minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities.
  - Qualified individuals reflecting a range of ages.
  - Qualified individuals reflecting different geographical areas.
6. **Candidate Identification Process.** On behalf of the Head of OIA, staff will solicit suggestions for potential members from a wide range of sources, including but not limited to: senior NSF management, knowledgeable NSF program staff, other Federal agencies, and recommendations from the public.

Suggestions will be reviewed and potential candidates will be identified taking into consideration professional and personal qualifications, experience, fields of expertise, and other balance factors.

A short list of the best qualified candidates will be developed and discussed. The Head of OIA will identify the top candidates and they will be contacted for interest and availability.

When a vacancy occurs and it is determined that a replacement is necessary, the list of suggestions will be used as a source for potential replacements.

7. **Subcommittee Balance.** The process used to determine advisory committee member balance for the Committee will be used for subcommittees that may be created.
8. **Other.** There are currently no other known factors affecting the balance of the Committee.
9. **Date Prepared/Updated.** This Membership Balance Plan was prepared on: 11-13-15



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